

to reduce the impact elsewhere in the defense budget. In particular, we should have taken this opportunity to scale back our country's trillion-dollar nuclear modernization efforts. Modernizing our nuclear weapons in a manner that makes them easier to use in more scenarios while abrogating our treaty responsibilities and doing nothing to bring Russia back to the nuclear negotiating table is a recipe for disaster.

However, my concerns with the particulars of this amendment do not change the plain fact that our national defense budget has grown out of control. In the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, a pandemic that has taken the lives of more than 143,000 of our fellow Americans and shows no signs of slowing down, and the impending crises of homelessness and joblessness that we face if the Congress fails to provide relief, we simply cannot afford to continue this level of overinvestment in defense at the expense of other critical national priorities. For that reason, I supported this amendment.

REMEMBERING LORNE CRANER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to someone many of my colleagues knew and admired, Lorne Craner, who passed away on July 2 at the too young age of 61, a victim of cancer.

Lorne dedicated his professional life to advancing freedom and justice in the world. He served that cause faithfully as the longest tenured president of the International Republican Institute, IRI, as the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in the George W. Bush administration, as Director of Asian Affairs on President George H.W. Bush's National Security Council, and as an advisor to Members of Congress, including his service as foreign affairs aide to a newly elected Senator from Arizona, our late colleague, John McCain. He continued to advance American values abroad as president of the American Councils for International Education, as a board member of several distinguished organizations, including the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

I got to know Lorne when Senator McCain, who was IRI's chairman, asked me to serve on its board. I saw the Institute thrive in size and reach under Lorne's leadership, becoming one of the world's most effective agencies for democratic development, respected by human rights advocates around the world and in both U.S. political parties.

Like John, Lorne was a tireless defender of the dignity of all human beings, the bedrock value that democracies are instituted to respect. Like John, Lorne fought the bad guys to defend the little guys. Toward that end, he usually exercised a little more skill at diplomacy than John sometimes possessed, but they shared an equal de-

votion to mankind's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Secretary of State Colin Powell awarded Lorne the Distinguished Service Medal, the State Department's highest decoration.

Lorne and John shared, too, a dedication to the peaceful conduct of international relations. Both knew that our interests and values sometimes had to be defended by force of arms, but they were both so personally familiar with the costs of war that they worked hard to resolve international conflicts peacefully where possible and to make new friends of former enemies.

Lorne went to work for John in his last term as a Member of the House and his first term in the Senate, but their relationship began earlier than that. Lorne's father, Air Force Colonel Bob Craner, resided for more than 2 years in the cell next to John's in a Hanoi prison the POWs called, "the Plantation." John described Colonel Craner to me as one of the finest officers he had ever served with and "probably the person I was closest too in my life that I wasn't related to." John was held in solitary confinement at the time, the hardest period of his imprisonment, and he credited Bob Craner, whom he constantly communicated with by tap code, "with keeping me sane."

Despite the mistreatment of the POWs, John resolved early in his Senate career to help America reconcile with Vietnam, recognizing that the U.S. and Vietnam had shared interests in Southeast Asia, and that the cause of human dignity in the country where he had resided involuntarily for over 5 years could be served through friendly rather than hostile relations. The normalization of relations between the U.S. and Vietnam wouldn't have happened when it did if not for John's efforts to help bring it about. I think it is one of his greatest achievements. And Lorne Craner, the son who was deprived of his father for 5 years by the Vietnam war, provided invaluable help in that effort.

Lorne travelled to Vietnam with John in 1990, where he helped John build productive partnerships with Vietnamese officials who would help resolve issues that were in the way of better relations. And from his positions in government and at the IRI, he continued to advance American interests and ideals in Southeast Asia. Today, growing security and commercial ties between the two former enemies, symbolized by the port calls in Vietnam by U.S. Navy ships, including the USS *John S. McCain*, are a testament to both John and Lorne's vision and effectiveness. They imagined a better future out of the resentments and rubble of war, and, with others, made it a reality. They were both men who believed to do good in the world was why we were put on this earth.

Lorne was deeply committed to his cause, a cause he never strayed from, for a day in his life, and we are all bet-

ter for it. He was, too, as all who knew him will testify, a devoted father and husband, and his family's loss is the most profound. He was a hard man to lose at such a young age, for his family and friends, and for the country and the world.

Lorne Craner, son of Robert and Audrey Craner, husband of Anne Craner, father to three beloved children, Isabelle, Alexander, and Charles, brother of Charys, an American patriot, a man of justice, a peacemaker, and a friend to many, is gone. But his memory is a blessing to all who had the good fortune to have known him.

To his wife and children, the people who loved him most, as much as you hurt today, time will assuage your grief, and you will still feel his presence in your hearts. I lost my parents when I was a young man. I can say with confidence that the day will come when you will recall, without heartache, the good and honorable man who loved you so and with whom you will one day be reunited. God bless you.

Thank you.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Minot Air Force Base on the 65th anniversary of its beginning.

On July 12, 1955, Minot, ND, community leaders and area residents gathered to break ground on land north of the city for what would become the Minot Air Force Base. One and a half years later, operations commenced at the base, and personnel and aircraft made their way to Minot, where they have enhanced our State and defended our Nation ever since. By the mid-1960s, it was recognized as one of the Nation's largest military installations, with a population of nearly 19,000 military and civilian men and women and their families. It was also recognized as having the largest housing village on a military base in the continental United States, with more than 2,450 homes.

The mission, aircraft, and staff have changed over these past seven decades. Today, the Minot Air Force Base supports two legs of the Nation's nuclear triad and provides vital defense to our security. It is the only dual-wing nuclear-capable installation in the Nation, with the 5th Bomb Wing and its B-52 bombers and the 91st Missile Wing, along with Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

During these 65 years, the Minot community and State of North Dakota have remained constant in their support for the thousands of people who have been stationed at the Minot Air Force Base. We take pride in all they have done and continue to do to ensure peace throughout our world. We will continue to stand by them in the years ahead.

To the men and women of the Minot Air Force Base, you and all who came before you have faithfully served our

country and lived up to your motto, "Only The Best Come North." Every day, you go to work carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders, willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms and keep us safe. Thank you for all you do to make America great.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING TECHNICAL SERGEANT RALPH H. RAY

• Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Technical Sergeant Ralph H. Ray, who was a dedicated West Virginia serviceman in our U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. T SGT Ralph H. Ray is being honored by the renaming of a bridge on U.S. Route 60 that spans the Greenbrier River in his native Greenbrier County, WV.

T SGT Ralph H. Ray graduated from Frankford High School at the age of 17 in 1940. He left his home in West Virginia to complete his enlisted physical for the U.S. Army Corps on January 7, 1943, and subsequently earned the rank of technical sergeant. He earned his airplane mechanic diploma at the Ford Factory in Michigan the spring of 1943 and then completed gunnery school in Laredo, TX.

During his service, T SGT Ralph H. Ray was assigned to a top-notch flight crew with whom he trained for 3 months. He and his crew traveled to Trinidad, Brazil, Africa, Morocco, and Wales before reaching the Tibenham Base in East England. While serving as a flight engineer during World War II, he and his crew flew 30 successful missions before returning to the United States and spending the last 10 months of his enlistment at the Air Transport Corps in Miami, FL. This dedicated and diverse military service is certainly worthy of admiration.

After his release from the U.S. Army Air Corps, T SGT Ralph H. Ray worked as an airplane mechanic for Bollinger Airport in Davis Creek, WV, and while there, he earned his civilian pilot's license. T SGT Ralph H. Ray began working as a chemical technician for Westvaco in South Charleston, WV, in 1948. He married his wife Mary Madeline Hudson on April 16, 1948, and established a beautiful and loving family with four daughters: Valerie Ann Lyons, Angela Sue Ray, Verna Ray-Breaux, and Anita Ray-Kirk.

T SGT Ralph H. Ray retired in 1984 and passed away on August 8, 2019. It is fitting that an enduring monument will be established to commemorate Technical Sergeant Ray and his contributions to our State and our country. As resolved by legislature of West Virginia, the locally known Caldwell Bridge, will henceforth be named the "U.S. Army Air Corps T SGT Ralph H. Ray Memorial Bridge." I hope it provokes thought and appreciation for all of our military heroes and may the bridge be an enduring reminder of the

life of dedicated serviceman, husband, father, and lifelong West Virginian.●

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE ABADIE

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jeannine Abadie, the Walton County Teacher of the Year at Emerald Coast Middle School in Santa Rosa Beach, FL.

Jeannine is always working to help her students better understand mathematics and to improve her classroom to better suite their needs. She recently created a video app that provides tutorials for students. She specializes in curriculum design and assessment analysis for her math classes.

Jeannine also mentors her colleagues in lesson planning and student achievement. She provides support and professional development for her colleagues to ensure their students are well equipped for high school and their future educational careers.

Jeannine is a math instructor at Emerald Coast Middle School and has taught there for 7 years. Previously, Jeannine taught algebra at Northwest Florida State College. She received her master's degree from the University of West Florida in mathematics and statistics and will soon graduate with her second master's degree in instructional design and technology.

I convey my best wishes to Jeannine for her outstanding work as an educator. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO FAITH BENCH

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Faith Bench, the Manatee County Teacher of the Year at Braden River Middle School in Bradenton, FL.

Faith has a special bond with her students who struggle with math. That is because she struggled with the subject when she was in school. She understands those who hate the subject at the beginning of the year and finds it deeply fulfilling to help grow each student's problem-solving skills by the time they leave her class with greater confidence and appreciation for the subject.

Faith's colleagues note that she works hard to make learning fun and engaging for her students each year. She is committed to tailoring her lesson plans to suit the individual needs of every student. In turn, Faith is inspired by her colleagues and believes that their work together is the key to an educator's best work.

Faith teaches mathematics to seventh grade students at Braden River Middle School. Teaching is her passion, and she wants to help her students accomplish their dreams.

I thank Faith for the good work she has done for her students over the years. I look forward to learning of her continued good work in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHY HAMILTON-BROWN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kathy Hamilton-Brown, the Brevard County Teacher of the Year at Endeavor Elementary School in Cocoa, FL.

Kathy credits her success to her fellow teachers in Brevard County. She notes that her school is like her family: a home away from home. To Kathy, teaching is more than just a job. She believes her students are our Nation's future leaders, and she is committed to making a difference in each of their lives.

Kathy's life experiences influenced her to become a teacher and care for her students. She feels indebted to the support system of family and friends who guided her at a young age. She hopes to inspire her students to do something great with their lives after they leave her classroom.

Colleagues note that Kathy is a fierce advocate for students, working to ensure they succeed both socially and academically. Due in large part to her innovative efforts, Kathy's school saw a 61-percent reduction in disciplinary referrals, as well as an increase in overall student attendance.

Kathy is a prekindergarten through sixth grade teacher at Endeavor Elementary School. She has been with Brevard Public Schools for 21 years. Outside of the classroom, she serves on the community partnership school operations team and works with Endeavor's business partners throughout the community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Kathy for her commitment to the education of her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FURIOSI

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor William Furiosi, the Seminole County Teacher of the Year at Oviedo High School in Oviedo, FL.

William has taught AP biology, chemistry, and experimental research at Oviedo High School for the past 17 years. William aims to create a positive environment for students to think critically while studying science. He enjoys breaking down complex scientific theories to help them better understand the component ideas behind what they are learning.

At the Seminole County Science Fair this year, 12 of his student's science projects placed, with six first places, four second places, and two third places. His students say they benefit from his teaching style, finding it relatable and exciting during their classes.

I thank William for the good work he has done for his students over the years. I wish him all the best and look forward to learning of his continued success in the coming years.●